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Saturday, May 5, 2012

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Beautification of City Center ready for Public Tender



ORANJESTAD -- The City Center appears to be ready for

the next phase of the renovation project, namely, the phase for beautifying the area. We are told that the entire renovation project consists of various phases which are part of one total project.

The beautification phase is scheduled to begin in the second quarter of the year 2012 and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

The renovation of the City Center of Oranjestad has been completed with the installation of a new and modern underground system of cables of the utility companies. This new system is designed to avoid future breaking up of the roads for whatever work that may be needed to be done.

The part of the underground

work is completed and they have begun laying the foundation for what is to be the route of the Street Car, which is one of the components of the renovation project.

The beautification package will include some 300 trees that will be planted within the entire center. The type of plants to be used this time are about 3.5m tall. The majority being Palms, yet different types of Palms. The idea is that these trees should also contribute to providing some shade in addition to the different umbrellas that will be installed throughout the city center. Smaller trees will also be planted simply as decorative pieces.

Continued on page 5

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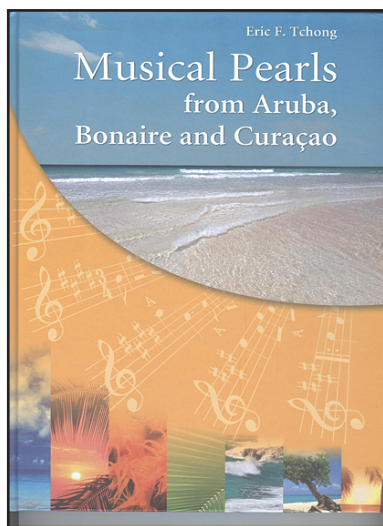
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Eric Tchong presents new book "Musical Pearls from Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao"



ORANJESTAD -- On the 9th of May, author Eric Tchong will present his new book in the National Public Library here at 8 in the evening. Tchong's book, "Musical Pearls from Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao," is his fourth work on music which he will be dedicating to lovers of songs and instrumental music.

Several local composers contributed to Eric's new book, among them, Mario Croes, Rufo Odor, Buchi Boekhoudt, Padu Lampe, Rudy Plaatje, Alwin Toppenberg, Piet Schwengle, Michael Kuiperi, Edgard Kelkboom, Reynaldo Lampe,

Maybeline Arends-Croes, Toty Arends, Janchi Thijzen, Hubert Lio Booi and Don Ramon Krozendijk. From the deceased Dominico Herrera of Bonaire, the book received its piece for Piano.

The book consists of 61 folkloric pieces of lyrics, and music of classical, religious and coral music all beautifully laid out in the book.

Wals, tumba, huapango, ranchera, danza, chachacha, merengue and bolero are among some of the rhythms used in Tchong's great book, "Musical Pearls from Aruba, Bonaire & Curacao."

During the presentation of his book on the evening of the 9th, a musical group will perform some of the songs and instrumental pieces recorded in the book.

It is expected that Tchong's book will eventually find its way around the world where people all over the world will be able to enjoy some of Aruba's great music.

The book is currently available in our local bookstores and in the hotels.

Tchong will be available to sign copies of his book for those interested.

Aruba Tourism Authority at Cruise3Sixty 2012

This year Aruba was present at one of the most important cruise events of the year. This year the event took place in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, and was held from April 25th to the 30th.

Cruise3Sixty Conference and Tradeshow is a conference organized by the Cruise Lines International Association (CLIA). It is particularly geared to travel agents, cruise lines and cruise providers.

For Aruba, this year's conference was particularly important because of the decision made by Aruba to become an executive partner of CLIA. This organization does not represent many destinations, however, they have recently decided to expand



ferent tendencies in the industry today.

Gloria Vega used the op-



and offer benefits and unique opportunities to the different destinations that become members.

ATA's cruise industry representative, Gloria Vega, had the opportunity to attend different seminars organized to provide travel agents information concerning different cruise ships and destinations. The general sessions dealt with issues related to the dif-

portunity to also meet with Gayle Stewart-Loudis, director of CLIA Membership in order to initiate the beginning of Aruba's partnership. ATA's US office was in charge of Aruba's booth during the tradeshow; where Aruba's Angelina Buckley and Roberto Pedrosa, regional sales manager of Hyatt Resorts, were both in attendance at what was an ex-

tremely well visited booth

Aruba Ports Authority also became member of CLIA. For this reason, Aruba Ports director Alfonso Boekhoudt was also present representing Aruba and networking with the myriad of people at the Tradeshow.

Aruba now has the humongous task of, together with ATA USA and Aruba Ports Authority, to organize a larger presence of Aruba during next year's and future years events. And to prepare informational sessions to motivate cruise travel agents to include Aruba in their Cruise itineraries.



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AAA N.V. announces additional service from Canada by WestJet



Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) has confirmed additional service from Canada by Westjet. The schedule will be in effect starting Sunday, May 6, 2012 between Toronto and Aruba. Westjet will operate the flight with a B737-800 aircraft with 166 seats configured on board.

The flights are scheduled to depart on Sundays and the first flight will arrive this Sunday at

13:53 Aruba local time.

"We are extremely pleased receiving the slot request from Westjet for additional service from Canada, as the Canadian market has been a consistent market for Aruba for the past few years," said Peter Steinmetz, CEO AAA, "We are looking forward to welcome WestJet and all of its passengers this coming Sunday!"

Netherlands holds two-minute silence

AMSTERDAM --The Netherlands observed a two-minute silence at 8.00pm yesterday evening in memory of war victims during and since World War II. Around 20,000 people attended the national remembrance ceremony at Dam Square in Amsterdam, in the presence of Queen Beatrix, Prince Willem-Alexander and Princess Máxima.

In a speech, Amsterdam's Mayor Eberhard van der Laan praised those who "despite terror and fear" had summoned the courage to join the resist-

ance.

"If we in turn in our time – in all freedom – are not prepared to stand up for justice where it is being oppressed, we may as well not be here today," he said.

The mayor said that he is reminded virtually every day of the fact that 61,000 of Amsterdam's 80,000 Jewish inhabitants were carried away before the eyes of their fellow citizens and murdered.

"It remains a raw nerve in the city, in the country."

Cooperation from Florida Small Business Development Center



Recently, State Director of Florida Small Business Development Center, Jerry Cartwright, paid a visit to Aruba's new IDEA Center and the Aruba Minister of Economic Affairs.

The IDEA Center (Initiatives for Business Development in Aruba) held talks with Cartwright regarding Small Business Programs.

The Florida Small Business Development Program (SBDC) is very recognized both in the Florida region and in the world.

They offer guidance and information as well as training to future and current entrepreneurs. The entire Florida region falls under the leadership of Jerry Cartwright.

Here in our region, Curacao is affiliated with SBDC and their Small Business Center (SEDECK). Cartwright travelled to Aruba to see our IDEA Center and to see how it is functioning, to offer guidance and pertinent information.

Cartwright's evaluation of Aruba's IDEA is that it is well structured and operating optimally and that his Florida system is very much like Aruba's.

Together with Cartwright and the director of DEZHI, IDEA reviewed the different

important observations to guarantee the progress and future development of Aruba's Small Business Center.

Aruba is contemplating an affiliation with SBDC in the near future so that they can continue working together on other matters, for example, on the level of business coaching, strategy and education.

Do you have an Idea? Make your idea become reality, visit IDEA at the Department of Economic Affairs, Commerce and Industry at Sun Plaza' second floor;

there you will get all the help you need and the necessary guidance.



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Leo and Gloria Jerman honored for 14 years of love and loyalty

Recently, Mr. and Mrs. Leo & Gloria Jerman, residents of Illinois were honored as Distinguished Visitors of Aruba for their 14th visit here.

The distinction is bestowed on vacationers who visit Aruba for 10 or more consecutive years.

Ms. Marouska Heyliger, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, handed the Jermans a handsome certificate thanking them for their loyalty to our island.

The event was held at the Renaissance, where the Jermans are staying.



YMCA to organize an Excellent Seminar on 'Positivity & Abundance'

SAN NICOLAS -- "Stress Free Mind, Disease Free Body, Inhibition Free Intellect, Trauma Free Memory and a Sorrow Free Soul -- is a birth right of every human being".

After the success of 'Health & Happiness Seminar' from the same teacher, YMCA is going to organize another seminar from Mr. Dushyant Savadia, International teacher from the Art of Living Foundation. Mr. Dushyant is settled in U.K. and is currently travelling across the Caribbean. He has been teaching Art of Living courses for the last 11 years. He started the activities of the Foundation here in Aruba in November 2011 and has held Art of Breathing courses in Aruba for all age groups including children, youth and adults. Mr. Dushyant was once addicted to alcohol and smoking with a very angry personality and was transformed completely through these courses and has since dedicated his life to the Foundation to bring this knowledge to people across the world.

As a larger contribution to the Caribbean Islands, Art of Living is also offering diverse workshops for society in general and for special groups like prisoners, drug addicts etc. The Art of Living programs have already benefited more than 300 million people across the world from all walks of life.

"An inner transformation to last a lifetime." Existence is a Fact - Living is an Art

Art of Living Foundation:
 Founded in 1981 by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, The Art of Living Foundation is an educational and humanitarian NGO



(Non-Governmental Organisation) engaged in stress-management and service initiatives.

The organisation operates globally in 151 countries. The Art of Living offers stress-elimination programs which include breathing techniques, meditation and yoga. The Foundation has spread peace across communities through diverse humanitarian projects, including conflict resolution, disaster relief, empowerment of women, prisoner rehabilitation, education for all, and environmental sustainability.

The Art of Living Course is offered worldwide and is a practical programme of experience and knowledge designed to develop the full potential of life. The course gives practical experience on all levels of existence: body, breath, mind, intellect, memory, ego and the self.

Continued on page 5

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ICC solicits advice on Libya call to end Kadhafi case

THE HAGUE -- The International Criminal Court yesterday invited the all parties, including the United Nations Security Council, to weigh-in on Libyan objections that Moamer Kadhafi's son be tried in The Hague.

In a statement, the world war crimes court invited the ICC prosecutor, the defence team, representatives for victims and the Security Council to submit observations on Libya's challenge by June 4.

Libya has been at loggerheads with the ICC over who has the right to bring former regime figures such as Seif-al Islam and the dead dictator's spymaster, Abdullah Senussi, to justice.

On Tuesday Libya officially asked the world court judges to quash a surrender request and throw out the case.

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Beautification City Center...

Continued from page 1

Apparently, they are taking into account the comfortability of those trafficking through the city center, which is why there will be benches placed in shaded areas, as well as areas created to serve as small terraces. Many of these areas will be combined with different types of fountains as decorative spots. In order to foster a sort of festive ambiance in the entire streetscape, they will install speakers along the street for pleasant music without this being a nuisance.

According to the Infra Team of the DOW, the Public Tender for this phase of the project is in its final preparation stage. This means that the three companies that demonstrated an interest in this part of the project will receive the pertinent information concerning this Tender later next week. Following that information they will have two weeks to submit their offer. Hence, within about one month, this multimillion Aruban florins project will have been tendered to begin execution by the end of May, or by the beginning of June.

The goal is to have the beautification project as well as the phase of the Street Car route completely finalized by the end of the year when they intend to inaugurate the new totally renovated City Center.

Excellent Seminar on 'Positivity ...

Continued from page 4

The Breathing Techniques also have been subjected to published international researches claiming physical, mental and emotional benefits. Some of the reported benefits include:

- Reduced Stress
- Enhanced Health and Well Being
- More Joy and Enthusiasm
- Improved Relationships
- Benefit to the Immune System

This powerful seminar on 'Positivity & Abundance' will be organized on Sunday, the 6th May at YMCA, SAN NICOLAS from 400 to 600 p.m. and on Monday, the 7th May at Antraco bookstore in LGS Boulevard from 4 to 6 pm. The participation in the seminar is FREE.

Please register by calling 562 4722, 737 3743 or 741 6490 or by email at aolruba@gmail.com

Strauss-Kahn denies any violent acts against women

PARIS (AFP) - Ex-IMF chief Dominique Strauss-Kahn denies committing any acts of violence against women, his lawyers said yesterday, after French prosecutors said witness testimony suggested he took part in a rape.

Strauss-Kahn "absolutely contests having committed the slightest act of violence of any nature whatsoever," his lawyers Henri Leclerc, Frederique Baulieu and Richard Malka said in a statement.

The statement contested

testimony from two escorts suggesting Strauss-Kahn took part in a gang rape at a sex party in Washington DC, saying: "The declarations made by these young women are contradictory."

"Distorted information, manipulation and a desire for a lynching cannot forever be a substitute for reality," it said.

The statement also said the news of the testimony, which dates from late March, was released at an "opportune

time" ahead of Sunday's runoff in the French presidential election.

Strauss-Kahn had once been the frontrunner to lead the Socialist Party against incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy in the vote. The Socialists instead chose Francois Hollande, who is tipped to win on Sunday.

Strauss-Kahn, two businessmen and a police chief have been charged with "aggravated pimping in an organised gang" for allegedly

organising a prostitution ring for orgies in France, the United States and elsewhere.

Yesterday, a spokesman for prosecutors in the French city of Lille said investigating magistrates had submitted new evidence, based on testimony from the two sex workers, that could also implicate the men in a gang rape.

Strauss-Kahn's lawyers noted that "no complaints have been made" based on the testimony.

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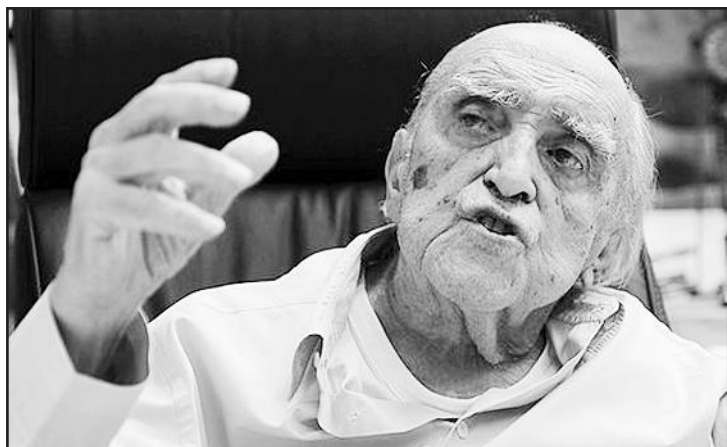
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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Architect Niemeyer, 104, improving in hospital



AFP file photo shows Oscar Niemeyer during an interview in 2009 when he celebrated his 102nd birthday.

RIO DE JANEIRO (AFP) - Renowned Brazilian architect Oscar Niemeyer, who is 104 years old, is improving after he was hospitalized with pneumonia, hospital officials said yesterday.

"The patient is lucid and breathing without the aid of a machine... According to his doctor, Fernando Gjorup, the patient has shown a clinical improvement," a statement from the Samaritano hospital in Rio de Janeiro said.

Niemeyer was still being given intravenous antibiotics and serum, it added, after he was hospitalized Wednesday suffering from pneumonia and dehydration.

The press office of the Oscar Niemeyer Foundation told AFP that doctors opted to hospitalize the architect to "avoid any complications" from pneumonia.

Niemeyer, who won the 1988 Pritzker Prize -- dubbed the Nobel prize for architecture -- was hospitalized for 13 days in 2010 for a urinary infection.

Most famous for designing Brazil's ultramodern capital city of Brasilia, he has created more than 600 projects around the world and was behind some of Brazil's most distinctive buildings during his seven-decade career. His works include the headquarters for the United Nations in New York.

Media mogul Conrad Black freed from US jail, deported

MIAMI (AFP) - Deposed media mogul Conrad Black was released from a US prison yesterday after serving some three years behind bars for fraud and obstruction of justice, and swiftly deported to his native Canada.

A spokesman for the Federal Bureau of Prisons confirmed to AFP that Black, who once ran one of the world's

biggest media empires, had been released from FCC Coleman jail in Florida.

But he was quickly turned over to immigration authorities, who deported him to Canada, without saying exactly where he had been sent.

He was released early after eight months for good behavior and time served.

Demos as Bahrain opposition says reform 'not enough'

MANAMA: AFP photo shows Bahraini girls taking part in an anti-government protest in the Shiite village of Barbar on the western outskirts of the Bahraini capital Manama yesterday.

Thousands of Bahrainis took to the streets after the weekly yesterday prayer in a demonstration called by the opposition to protest against constitutional reforms that they say are not enough.



Colombian prostitute says she begged US agent to be paid



SPAIN, Madrid : TV grab handout released by W Radio, shows Colombian

prostitute Dania Londoño during an interview with W Radio and Caracol TV, in

Madrid, Spain, yesterday.

Londoño is one of the prostitutes involved in the prostitution scandal implicating Secret Service agents and military personnel working on a visit to Colombia by President Barack Obama for the Summit of the Americas last month.

Londoño said she begged for more than three hours to be paid the agreed price -- thing that if had happened, she added, would have avoided any scandal.

(AFP PHOTO)

WASHINGTON : Protesters demanding the release of Chinese activist Chen Guangcheng hold signs and pray in front of the White House in Washington, DC on May 4, 2012.

The United States said that China had indicated it would let the blind activist and his family leave the country soon, raising hopes of a resolution to a damaging diplomatic crisis.

AFP PHOTO



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International News

China indicates will allow activist to leave soon: US

BEIJING (AFP) - The United States said Friday that China had indicated it would let blind activist Chen Guangcheng and his family leave the country soon, raising hopes of a resolution to a damaging diplomatic crisis.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said China would expedite travel documents for the rights campaigner, who escaped house arrest and fled to the US embassy, where he spent six days before emerging Wednesday.

Nuland said Chen had been offered a fellowship by an American university, where he could be accompanied by his wife and two children. A spokesman for New York University later said Chen had been invited to study at the institution.

John Beckman said Chen had an invitation to be a visiting scholar, "working with our

law programs" either in New York "or at one of our other global sites".

Nuland's statement appeared to be deliberately vague in hopes of giving China a face-saving way out of the crisis. Officials declined to give a timeframe or to say whether they had firm assurances from the Chinese government.

Beijing earlier said Chen was free to apply to go abroad, after the activist said he feared for his and his family's safety in China and wanted to go to the United States to study.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said she was "encouraged" by that development in the affair, which erupted ahead of her arrival in Beijing for annual talks that have been overshadowed by the drama.

The activist, who spent four years in jail after exposing forced abortions and sterilisa-

tions under the "one-child" policy, unleashed a diplomatic furore with his flight from his home in northeast Shandong province.

US officials said Chen, 40, left the embassy after Beijing pledged he and his family would be treated "humanely", but since then he has said he fears retribution by Chinese authorities.

During interviews with Chinese officials in hospital on Thursday and Friday, he made "detailed allegations" about abuse under house arrest, a US official said on condition of anonymity.

The unravelling of the deal prompted the United States to renew talks with Chen to try to establish the next move for the activist, who has said he does not want to go into permanent exile but is seeking a period of rest abroad.

China has reacted angrily to the case, demanding a US apology for "interference" in its affairs. But analysts said Beijing would likely allow Chen to leave the country.

Haiti legislature approves Lamothe as PM



PORT-AU-PRINCE (AFP) - Haitian lawmakers late Thursday ratified the appointment of Laurent Lamothe as the new prime minister of the earthquake-ravaged country after months of government limbo.

The Chamber of Deputies approved the appointment after a long debate, with 62 deputies voting in favor, three voting against and two abstaining, according to the chamber's president Levaillant Louis-Jeune.

The Haitian Senate approved the pick in early April.

The new prime minister will now have to present his

government before both chambers for approval.

Lamothe was tapped for the position by President Michel Martelly after the resignation of Gary Conille in February.

In Haiti, the prime minister is appointed by the president and mainly serves as cabinet chief.

Lamothe received a political science degree from Barry University in Miami and also earned an MBA at St Thomas University in Florida. Known as a keen sportsman, he played tennis for Haiti in the Davis Cup.

He became foreign minister in Martelly's government in October last year.

Martelly's administration is trying to ramp up stalled reconstruction efforts following the devastating January 12, 2010 earthquake that flattened large parts of Port-au-Prince and damaged much of the south of the country.

Even before the earthquake Haiti was the poorest country in the Americas.



KIEV (AFP file-photo) - A senior German doctor who has twice examined Ukraine's jailed ex-prime minister Yulia Tymoshenko was allowed into her prison on Friday to check on her health again, the Ukrainian prison service said. Berlin's Charite clinic head Karl Max Einhaeupl was accompanied by Ukrainian medics during the health check on Tymoshenko, who suffers from back pain and launched a hunger strike on April 20 to protest an alleged prison beating. Einhaeupl, who examined Tymoshenko in February and April, urged Ukraine last Friday to allow her treatment abroad and said the Berlin university hospital was ready to treat her. Meanwhile Tymoshenko agrees to be treated in Ukraine hospital: German doctor

Chavez tweets budget moves from Cuba hospital

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan leader Hugo Chavez, in Cuba for his latest cancer treatment, has been firing off budget announcements via Twitter, adding fodder to opposition claims that he is governing by remote control.

Chavez on Thursday announced \$500 million "to equip and modernize the Marine Corps," \$22.7 million for agricultural development, \$255 million for "staff and operating costs" for the communications ministry and \$106 million for the production of sugar cane, all via the micro-blogging website.

Chavez, long a mainstay on state media, has been communicating almost exclusively via Twitter in recent weeks as he has shuttled to Cuba and back for several rounds of cancer treatment, fueling speculation over his health.

The president's last public appearance was on Monday, when he signed a bill on the eve of the Labor Day holiday that would shorten the Venezuelan work week from 44 to 40 hours. He then traveled to Cuba for his latest treatment.

The opposition has de-

manded that the government be more transparent about Chavez's health and accused him of relying on Twitter to govern the country.

Vice President Elias Jaua came to Chavez's defense on Thursday, saying that the ailing leader "fortunately" had access to social media in order to stay in constant contact.

Chavez, in power since 1999, is running for reelection as a "revolutionary socialist" against Henrique Capriles, the youthful Miranda state governor and center-left candidate for the united opposition.

Health & Living

HIV-positive prostitutes held in Greece



ATHENS (AFP) - Greek authorities held 16 HIV-positive prostitutes on Friday for allegedly attempting to inflict serious harm to clients in a highly publicised crackdown days ahead of legislative elections.

The women, from Greece and eastern Europe, were arrested during surprise raids on Athens brothels and their photographs released to the news media.

A wave of screenings was launched last April after a 22-year old prostitute, who was one of those arrested on Friday, was found to be carrying the AIDS virus positive in a widely followed case.

Prostitution is legal in Greece as long as it takes place in mandated brothels that are meant to operate under tight health rules.

But in recent years paying for sex as a phenomenon has defied state supervision, as waves of young women, often

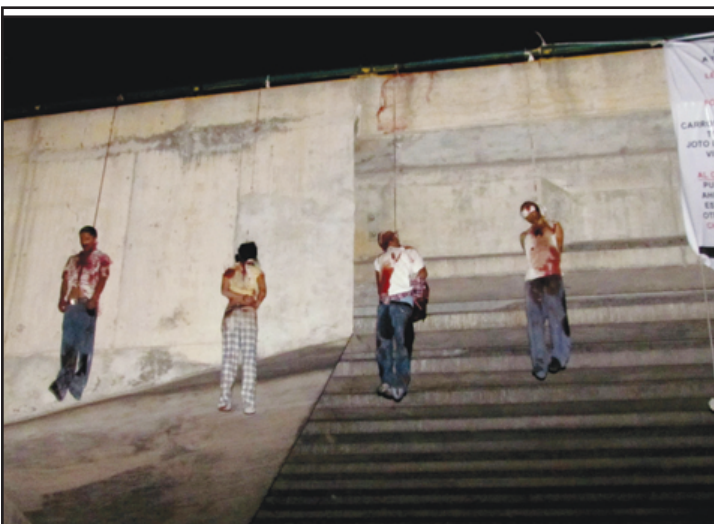
drug addicts, are smuggled into Greece illegally from neighbouring Balkan countries and eastern Europe.

"They must be treated like patients, not criminals", an activist said outside the magistrate's office where the women were being interrogated.

"The clients are the criminals and it's the women who are jailed," another activist complained.

AIDS remains taboo in Greece and since the scandal broke health services have posted advice for potential sex clients on a website. The government said 2,000 people had registered so far for guidance.

Health Minister Andreas Loverdos meanwhile lashed out at clients who refused protected sex in Greek brothels and promised that the crackdown was not a publicity stunt and would continue beyond this weekend's legislative election.



NUEVO LAREDO - MEXICO: GRAPHIC CONTENT
Four of nine corpses are seen hanging from a bridge in the Mexican border city of Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas state, early morning on May 4, 2012. The bodies of four women and five men were found hanging off a bridge in Nuevo Laredo with an apparent message from a criminal gang, an army official said Friday. The bodies showed signs of beating and torture and "we believe they were members of a criminal gang," the official said, declining to be named.
AFP PHOTO



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SlutWalkers hit the streets of Jerusalem



JERUSALEM (AFP) - Dozens of Israelis held a SlutWalk rally in Jerusalem on Friday to protest sexual violence and counter claims that women's attire or behaviour provoke rape and sexual assault, an AFP correspondent said.

Predominantly young women and some men marched through central streets of the Holy City in minimal or sexually suggestive clothing, chanting slogans and bearing signs.

One female organiser participated in the half-hour march with nothing on the front of her torso besides a sticker in Hebrew across her breasts that read "How am I dressed? Dial 1-800-none-of-your-business."

Others carried signs reading "we want it with consent," "a woman of valour wears what she wants" and "justice for women."

The Israeli marchers called their event "March of the Sharmutot," using the Arabic word for prostitute which in Hebrew slang means slut.

An ultra-orthodox member of the Jerusalem municipality protested earlier this week against the march, and the small number of police securing the event kept men with religious appearance at a safe

distance from it, the AFP correspondent said.

Similar objections and security arrangements arise in Jerusalem ahead of the gay pride marches that take place in the city.

A police spokeswoman told AFP that Friday's rally passed without disturbance.

SlutWalks have been held in dozens of cities around the world, including Toronto, Auckland and Wellington in New Zealand, New Delhi, Philadelphia, Seoul, Sydney, Washington, Paris and Berlin. In March, SlutWalks were held in the Israeli cities of Haifa and Tel Aviv.

The global phenomenon began in Toronto in April last year when hundreds of women and men took to the Canadian city's streets to protest a police constable's comment that "women should avoid dressing like sluts in order not to be victimized".

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Sci-Tech

France jails 'Big Bang' scientist for Qaeda terror plot

PARIS (AFP) - A Paris court sentenced a Franco-Algerian nuclear physicist to four years in jail on Friday after he was convicted of plotting with Al-Qaeda's north African branch to carry out terror attacks.

Police arrested Adlene Hicheur, a researcher studying the Big Bang at the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), in October 2009 after intercepting emails to an alleged contact in Al-Qaeda.

Hicheur, 35, who has been behind bars since his arrest, admitted at the start of his trial in late March that he was going through a "turbulent" time when he wrote the mails but denied he intended to carry

out any attacks.

His father embraced him in the Paris courtroom before he was taken off to serve his term. His lawyer said the verdict was "a legal scandal" because his client had been convicted merely on "words exchanged on the internet".

Hicheur's trial on a charge of "criminal association as part of a terrorist enterprise", began a week after police shot dead the Franco-Algerian gunman Mohamed Merah, who killed seven people in and around the city of Toulouse.

When Hicheur was arrested at his parents' home near CERN, the research institute which lies on the Franco-Swiss border near Geneva,

police discovered a trove of Al-Qaeda and militant Islamist literature.

France's DCRI domestic intelligence agency's suspicions had been raised after a statement from Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) was sent to President Nicolas Sarkozy's Elysee Palace in early 2008.

Following the message police carried out surveillance on several email accounts including Hicheur's and his exchanges with Mustapha Debchi, an alleged AQIM representative living in Algeria.

In the emails Hicheur suggested "possible objectives in Europe and particularly in France", mentioning for example a French military base at Cran-Gevrier, close to CERN.

Asked by Debchi if he was "prepared to work in a unit becoming active in France," Hicheur replied: "The answer is of course YES".

Hicheur told the court that the incriminating emails were written at a time when his "physical and psychological state" was impaired and he was on medication while he was on sick leave for a slipped disc.

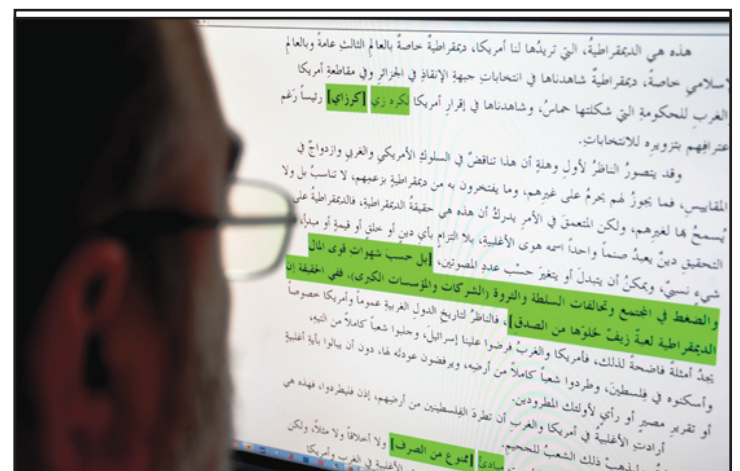
"I understand that some of the passages may have been uncomfortable or worrying... There was nothing behind it," said the scientist, who could have received up to 10 years in prison.

But the court said in its ruling that the researcher had provided logistical support to "various terrorist structures of the radical Islamist underground by participating in internet discussions with an AQIM member".



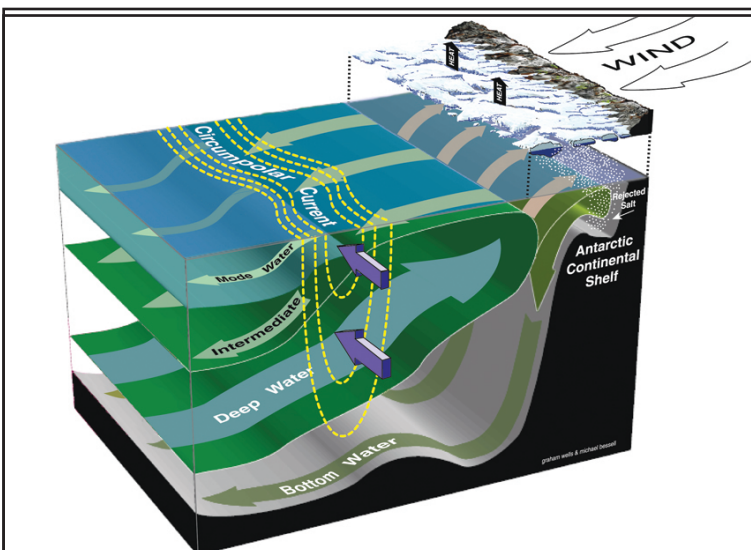
REPUBLIC OF KOREA, SEOUL : A handout photo released by Samsung Electronics on May 4, 2012 shows the company's latest smartphone, the Galaxy S3. South Korea's Samsung Electronics on May 3 unveiled its latest flagship smartphone at a London launch as it seeks to cement its position as the world's best-selling mobile phone maker.

AFP/ Photo



Washington : A journalist on May 3, 2012 in Washington, DC looks at original documents on a computer screen released by the Combating Terrorism Center at the West Point military academy. The United States on Thursday released 17 documents found at Osama Bin Laden's Pakistani compound in the raid that killed the Al-Qaeda chief a year ago. The White House allowed the declassified documents to be published online by the Combating Terrorism Center at the West Point military academy.

AFP PHOTO



AUSTRALIA, - : This CSIRO handout 3D graphic received on May 3, 2012 shows water formation at the ice edge. The densest waters of Antarctica have shrunk dramatically over recent decades, in part due to man-made impacts on climate, Australian scientists said on May 4, 2012. The densest waters of Antarctica have reduced dramatically over recent decades, in part due to man-made impacts on climate, Australian scientists said on May 4, 2012. Research suggests that up to 60 percent of "Antarctic Bottom Water", the dense water formed around the edges of Antarctica that seeps into the deep sea and spreads out through the world's oceans, has disappeared since 1970.

AFP/Photo

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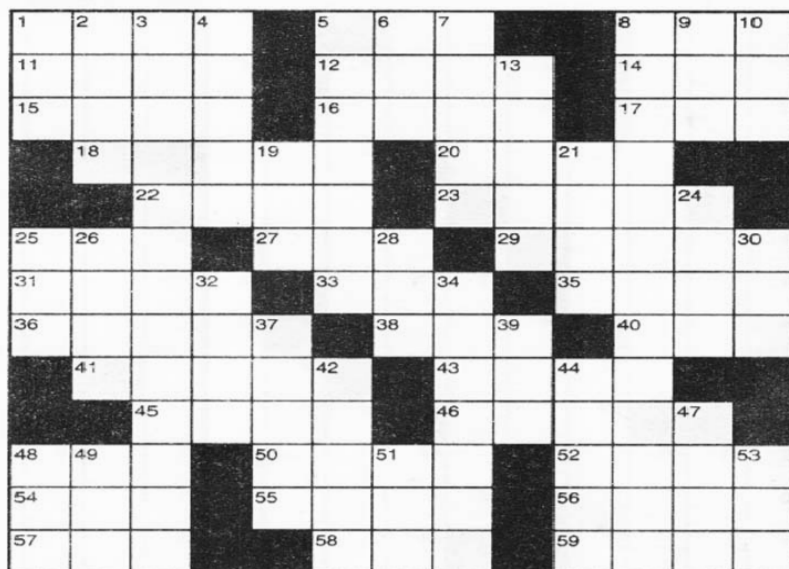
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ACROSS

1. Guns an engine
5. Height (abbr.)
8. TVA project
11. Genesis garden
12. Weirdo
14. Lennon's widow Yoko
15. Wise scholar
16. Divorce town
17. Seeded bread
18. Reagan appointee
20. Mexican snack
22. Squirrel's refuge
23. Shade of gray
25. "By Jove!"
27. Negative word
29. Despise
31. Umbrella spokes
33. Catch, as a crook
35. End of a New Year's song title
36. Fitzgerald et al.
38. Edison's monogram
40. DDE's predecessor
41. Lessen (2 wds.)
43. Small insect
45. Fortuneteller
46. Motion pictures
48. DDE's military arena
50. Child's toy
52. Glass bottle

DOWN

1. Dweller (abbr.)
2. Red-coated cheese
3. It may contain alphabet pasta (2 wds.)
4. Scornful smile
5. Arrive at a
6. Dungarees brand
7. Portable dwellings
8. 1976 Olympic gold medalist (2 wds.)
9. Indefinite amount
10. Nickname for Morris
13. Australian animal
19. Member of Congress (abbr.)
21. Trucks' compartments
24. Infinitely long time periods
25. Live
26. Land elevation
28. Make edging
30. No longer working (abbr.)
32. Satisfy fully
34. Perplexes
37. Glove leather
39. Yale student
42. Supports
44. North Pole workers
47. "For goodness' sake!"
48. Slinky swimmer
49. Eastern "truth"
51. Luau garland
53. Spearheaded



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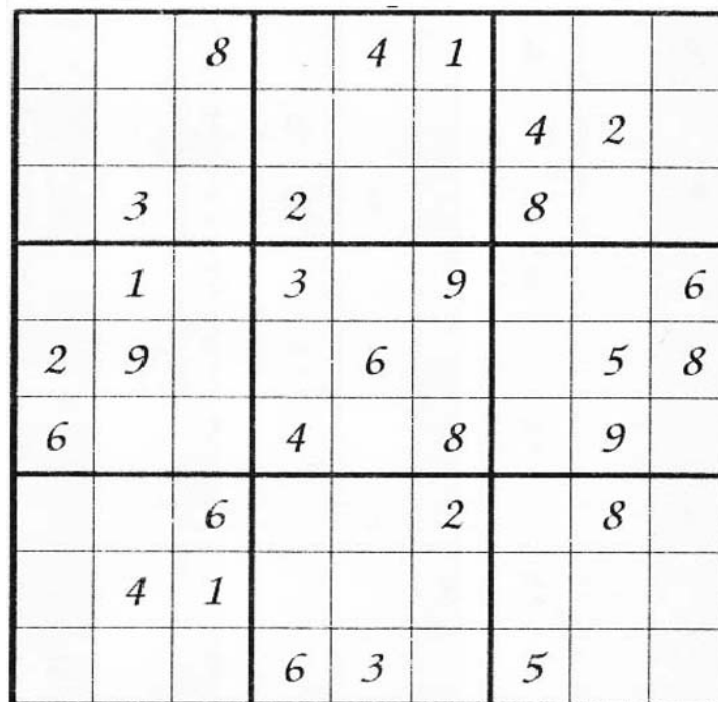
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 6 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 |
| 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 4 | 9 | 5 | 3 |
| 2 | 6 | 1 | 8 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 4 | 9 |
| 8 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 2 | 3 |
| 9 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 |
| 5 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 6 | 2 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 9 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 5 |

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9. A number is Never repeated in a row or column. In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9.

Finance

Analysts: Markets worried about Greece, not France

PARIS (AFP) - Financial markets are worried about the outcome of the Greek election, which could jeopardise its international bailout, but are not too concerned about the prospect of Francois Hollande winning the French presidency, analysts say.

"The week ahead looks to be high risk, but paradoxically it is maybe Greece that weighs heavier in the balance than the French election," said Valerie Plagnol, director of research at Credit Suisse.

Socialist Francois Hollande is favoured to defeat right-wing incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy in France's presidential election run-off on Sunday. But unlike Francois Mitterand's election in 1981, it appears the victory of a socialist will not unnerve markets.

Paris' stock market has slid in recent weeks, but has only been tracking other European markets gripped by renewed fears about the eurozone debt crisis.

Perhaps a better indicator of market views of the prospect of a Hollande victory is the French state's borrowing costs, which have fallen since the first round of voting two weeks ago.

On Thursday France placed 7.5 billion euros of medium- and long-term debt at lower rates.

"In case of victory, Hollande likely won't throw the European treaty of financial stability into doubt, but rather add a chapter about growth," said Plagnol.

"On that point, he isn't the only one who would like to see that in Europe, which is reassuring," she added.

European Central Bank

chief Mario Draghi has called for a "growth compact" to complement the fiscal compact agreed in March which will put teeth into European rules to cut down deficits and debt, saying growth should be put back at the "the centre of the agenda".

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, a leading advocate of austerity measures, has also conceded the need for a growth strategy.

A number of proposals are under discussion, in particular boosting EU-wide investment via the European Investment Bank and use of so-called structural funds.

A Paris-Berlin summit to discuss these questions is likely to take place quickly after the election.

An informal European Union summit on growth and employment is also being considered for late May or early June.

BofA-Merrill Lynch bank's chief European economist Laurence Boone said a possible switch of power in France isn't causing concern as "investors expect a restrained social policy" from Hollande.

But "one must watch closely to see if the candidate elected has a large majority," warned Philippe Waechter, director of economic research at Natixis Asset Management.

"If not, there could be concerns of a series of pacts during the legislative elections which could hinder certain budgetary decisions," he added.

However Greece, where voters elect a new parliament on Sunday, raises many more concerns.

"There is a considerable un-

certainty about the outcome and whether it will be possible to form a stable coalition," said David Mackie of JPMorgan.

Opponents of the austerity program imposed as part the country's international bailout enjoy about 45 percent support, according to the latest opinion polls.

If austerity opponents manage such a strong score, the EU and International Monetary Fund might at least temporarily halt rescue funds to Greece, worries Stephane Deo at UBS bank.

"The government quickly wouldn't be able to pay its employees and pensions, which would generate high tension on the financial markets," he warned.

Even in the case of a victory by the two main parties, the conservative New Democracy and Socialist PASOK which have supported the austerity program, they might feel pressure to try to renegotiate the bailout to try to accelerate a recovery of the country's economy which is in a fifth year of recession.

Canada penniless as it marks coin's end

OTTAWA (AFP) - Canada's last penny was struck yesterday at The Royal Canadian Mint's manufacturing facility and will become a museum piece as the one-cent coins are withdrawn from circulation.

The last penny struck for Canadian circulation will be entrusted to the Currency Museum of the Bank of Canada in Ottawa.

Due to rising labor, metal and other manufacturing and distribution costs, each penny cost more than 1.6 cents to produce.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

MEW DARS GLAD
AVA EMIT REID
CEL LINE AWLS
LIED RIN
DEPOT LENDERS
INANE EON LEE
TSPS PAS BLEW
CUE FAD RAISE
HEROICS ABNER
IRK BRAG
MALL ABIE TON
ODIE GIRL OWE
BALD EDDY NNW



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Rate on German 10-year bonds hit record low

PARIS (AFP) - The rate on benchmark German 10-year bonds fell to an all-time low yesterday as concern about the eurozone's economic prospects pushed investors into the continent's financial safe-haven.

The yield, or rate of return for investors on German Bunds fell to 1.582 percent, from 1.611 percent late on Thursday.

"We had a series of bad statistics on both sides of the Atlantic. Europe is sinking into recession and the US recovery seems to be weaker than expected in light of the latest employment report," said Rene Defosse, a bond strategist at Natixis bank.

"All that encourages investors to take refuge in German debt," he added.

In the 17-nation eurozone, private sector activity fell sharply in April, with even powerhouse Germany grind-

ing to a halt as the bloc's weaker southern members strugylesterFriday.

The Purchasing Managers Index (PMI) compiled by London-based research firm Markit fell to 46.7 points in April, well below an initial 47.4 estimate.

That raised fears that the bloc might suffer from a longer recession than initially foreseen.

In the United States meanwhile, a Labor Department report said that the rate of unemployment dropped from 8.2 percent from 8.1 percent, but that the economy created only a net 115,000 jobs last month, below market expectations.

Capital Economics analyst Paul Ashworth said the second figure would fuel concern "that the US recovery is fading fast, just like it did at this time last year."



INDONESIA, JAKARTA: AFP photo shows Indonesian energy and minerals minister Jero Wacik (C) speaking at a press conference in Jakarta on May 4, 2012. Some of the biggest international miners operating in Indonesia such as US company Freeport-McMoRan will be exempt from a new tax on raw mineral exports aimed at boosting a local processing industry, Wacik said. Companies under older permits known as Contracts of Work (CoW) will not have to pay a 20 percent tax on 14 raw minerals, including gold and copper, to come into effect May 6, according to Wacik.

| Daily Exchange Rates | | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Current as of: 05/04/2012 | Currency Code | Buying rate banknotes | Buying Cheques | Selling Rate |
| U.S.A. | USD | 1.77 | 1.78 | 1.80 |
| Dutch Antilles | ANG | 98.00 | 100.00 | 100.20 |
| Canada | CAD | 1.78 | 1.80 | 1.82 |
| Britain | GBP | 2.82 | 2.87 | 2.93 |
| Switzerland | CHF | 194.54 | 195.26 | 196.06 |
| Netherlands | EUR | 231.77 | 233.89 | 236.24 |
| Sweden | SEK | 25.28 | 26.00 | 26.80 |
| Denmark | DKK | 30.48 | 31.20 | 32.00 |
| Norway | NOK | 29.97 | 30.69 | 31.49 |
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"Luciano has lived a charmed life, one full of stories which bubble in him looking for exit. These stories need to escape and find ears to live in; his stories found mine. One of his first stories was about the time he participated in the famous bike race, 'Tour d France', and how he won that race."

"There are towns on this earth that cannot exist without a bar to stop at on the way home. It is a place where the tiredness of the day is left behind on the rims of beer bottles, and one can continue home having left some of their worries behind; San Nicolas is one of those towns."

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ARUBA I AM YOUR ISLAND



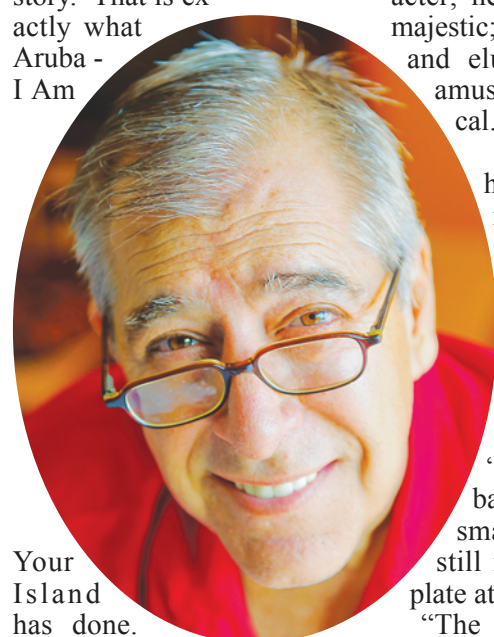
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SPORTS

Formula One: Championship remains unpredictable, says Hamilton

LONDON (AFP) - A week before the start of the European section of the Formula One world championship, Lewis Hamilton believes this year's scrap for glory next weekend, in Spain, and beyond is virtually impossible to forecast.

The 27-year-old Briton, who has finished third three times this season for McLaren and lies second in the embryonic drivers' title race, said the tussle to win the Spanish Grand Prix is wide open.

Refreshed after a two-week break following the Bahrain Grand Prix, the 2008 world champion will go into next Sunday's race at the Circuit de Catalunya seeking his first win of the year to overhaul defending double champion Sebastian Vettel.

German Vettel leapt to the top of the early-season standings with his first triumph of the season for Red Bull in Bahrain.

"It is all so hard to read," said Hamilton. "It is so difficult to predict who will be at the front because of the form this year."

"We did well in winter testing at Barcelona and that was good for us, but they (Red Bull) won last year's race."

"We had a great race in Spain last time and I pushed Sebastian all the way to the finish. On top of that, I feel we

have a comparatively strong car this year so I am hoping we will have another strong race."

Hamilton and his McLaren team-mate and fellow-Briton Jenson Button, the 2009 champion, will fly to Barcelona confident that they have a package to set the pace after a strong start to the year.

But he knows that any repeat of the failings the team has shown recently with their pit-stops, or a technical problem like the imperfect choice of gear ratios last year in Spain, could leave him struggling.

As often, Hamilton indicated that he believes he will be fast enough in qualifying, but could struggle for race performance - and pointed at a need for good overtaking to take advantage of strong car potential.

"It'll be interesting to see how straightforward overtaking will be this year. It's always been a tough place for passing - as I found out last year - but I really hope that our DRS (Drag Reduction System) and KERS (Kinetic Energy Recovery System) combined will make it a little easier," he explained.

While most of the top teams and drivers were in Mugello, Italy, this week for an official in-season test session, Hamilton and Button were rested - giving test drivers Gary Paffett and Oliver Turvey a chance to

do their work - ahead of next week's key race, the fifth of this year's 20-race season.

McLaren team boss Martin Whitmarsh said he believed the Spanish race would give a good indication of the relative strengths of the teams and their prospects.

Football:

Portuguese club hit by mass resignations

LISBON (AFP) - Portuguese club Uniao Leiria on Friday have confirmed that they will fulfil their weekend fixture against Benfica in Lisbon, despite 13 players resigning in protest at delays in receiving their wages.

Club president Joao Bartolomeu told a press conference that they will send a team comprised of youth players for the game at the Estadio da Luz and insisted that they will complete their top-flight fixtures.

Earlier, local media quoted a statement from the club's management saying that the en-masse resignation "could lead irreversibly to relegation" which would force the club to "give up" top flight football.

The letters were dated April 27 and were received on Wednesday, added the club, which is currently propping up the Portuguese first division with just 19 points.

The club had said it was looking at exploring legal options to recoup losses as a result of the no-show, which would have "serious consequences on the sporting and financial front".

Bosses accused the players of "unjustified absences from training and, worse, not turning up for the 28th match of the season" against Feirense at home last Sunday.

Leiria, based in central Portugal, managed to put out an eight-man team against Feirense but lost 4-0.

Fernando Gomes, president of the Portuguese football federation, said he regretted the situation as it portrayed the national game in a bad light and offered help to find a way out of the situation. A number of players had warned on April 23 that they would take strike action for the last three matches of the season to force the club to sort out a four to five month backlog in salaries.



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Ajax Amsterdam players celebrate their 31st Eredivisie title after winning the League title



ESTORIL - Portugal : Team Catalunya Caixa Repsol's rider Spanish Marc Marquez rides his Suter during the Moto2 free practice 1 of the Portuguese Grand Prix in Estoril, outskirts of Lisbon, on May 4, 2012.

AFP PHOTO

Golf: Woods likely to miss cut at Quail Hollow

CHARLOTTE (AFP) - Tiger Woods, making his first start since a disappointing performance at the Masters, looked likely to miss the cut at Quail Hollow on Friday after a second-round 73.

He struggled with his accuracy off the tee but really suffered on the greens, needing 33 putts in his round.

Woods's one-over par effort left him on even par 144, one shot above the projected cut line.

Although the cut wouldn't be official until the round was over, Woods was resigned to what would be the eighth

missed cut of his pro career.

"This is one of my favorite tour stops, and unfortunately, I'm just not going to be around for the last two days," said Woods, who won at Quail Hollow in 2007.

Woods also missed the cut at Quail Hollow in 2010, not long after he returned to golf in the wake of the sex scandal that rocked his personal life.

American Nick Watney was the leader in the clubhouse after a sparkling 64 for 12-under 132, with Woods's playing partner Webb Simpson a shot back on 133 after a second-round 68.

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MLB Standings

American League

| East | W | L | Pct | GB |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| TAMPA | 18 | 8 | .692 | -- |
| BALTIMORE | 16 | 9 | .640 | 1.0 |
| TORONTO | 15 | 11 | .577 | 3.0 |
| YANKEES | 13 | 12 | .520 | 3.5 |
| BOSTON | 11 | 13 | .458 | 5.5 |

Central

| | | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------|-----|
| CLEVELAND | 13 | 10 | .565 | -- |
| DETROIT | 12 | 12 | .500 | 1.5 |
| CHICAGO | 12 | 13 | .480 | 2.0 |
| KANSAS | 8 | 16 | .333 | 5.5 |
| MINNESOTA | 6 | 18 | .250 | 7.5 |

West

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| TEXAS | 17 | 8 | .680 | -- |
| OAKLAND | 13 | 13 | .500 | 4.5 |
| SEATTLE | 11 | 16 | .407 | 7.0 |
| LA ANGELES | 10 | 16 | .385 | 7.5 |

National League

| East | W | L | Pct | GB |
|--------------|----|----|------|-----|
| WASHINGTON | 16 | 9 | .640 | -- |
| ATLANTA | 15 | 11 | .577 | 1.5 |
| NY METS | 13 | 12 | .520 | 3.0 |
| PHILADELPHIA | 13 | 13 | .500 | 3.5 |
| MIAMI | 11 | 14 | .440 | 5.0 |

Central

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|-----|
| ST. LOUIS | 16 | 9 | .640 | -- |
| CINCINNATI | 12 | 12 | .500 | 3.5 |
| PITTSBURG | 11 | 14 | .440 | 5.0 |
| MILWAUKEE | 11 | 14 | .440 | 5.0 |
| HOUSTON | 11 | 14 | .440 | 5.0 |
| CHICAGO | 9 | 16 | .360 | 7.0 |

West

| | | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|-----|
| LA DODGERS | 17 | 8 | .680 | -- |
| COLORADO | 12 | 12 | .500 | 4.5 |
| ARIZONA | 13 | 13 | .500 | 4.5 |
| SAN FRANCISCO | 12 | 13 | .480 | 5.0 |
| SAN DIEGO | 9 | 17 | .346 | 8.5 |

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

Boxing: Retired Haye to meet banned Chisora - reports



Derek Chisora (L) and David Haye (R)

LONDON (AFP) - Disgraced British heavyweight Derek Chisora and former WBA champion David Haye could be set to settle their differences in the ring, reports suggested Friday.

The British heavyweights clashed violently in Munich last February at a press conference following Chisora's loss to Ukrainian Vitali Klitschko.

The incident led to the British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) withdrawing Chisora's licence "indefinitely".

nately".

He has launched an appeal against that decision, and despite Haye being technically retired, quotes attributed to Chisora's promoter, Frank Warren, suggest the pair could settle their argument in the ring.

"It's a natural fight, it doesn't matter what anyone says," Warren reportedly said in quotes carried by a number of websites.

"It's a bigger fight than either of them fighting Wladimir

or Vitali Klitschko.

"There's a lot for them to fight about - in a proper environment.

"I do see the fight happening. It's the proper forum for them to settle their differences."

The prospect of a showdown has also gained momentum after Warren extended an invitation to the media to attend a press conference at West Ham's Upton Park ground next Tuesday.

Chisora himself has revealed his desire to return to the ring, with his appeal against his suspension set to be heard on May 14.

And, in an interview with ITV London Friday, the 28-year-old refused to rule out meeting former WBA champion Haye.

"I'm not banned - I'm not fit enough to hold a licence. Banned means you've been banned. But when you're not fit enough that means you're not fit," he said.

"I'm a boxer, I'm a fighter. I love fighting. Someone takes something you love, how are you gonna survive and progress in your life? I wanna fight again."

When asked if he wanted to fight Haye in particular, he said: "I want to fight everybody."

NBA: Injury-hit USA add two to Olympic team finalists

COLORADO SPRINGS (AFP) - The US men's basketball team added forward Anthony Davis and guard James Harden to the roster of finalists for the 2012 Olympic team, after injuries to Derrick Rose and Dwight Howard.

Davis was the college player of the year and is expected to be the top selection in the NBA draft in June after leading the University of Kentucky to the NCAA collegiate Championship in April.

Harden plays for the Oklahoma City Thunder in the NBA and his team is currently in the playoffs.

In the regular season, his third in the NBA, Harden averaged 16.8 points and 4.1 re-

bounds over 62 games.

The additions bring the pool of candidates for America's London Olympics team to 18.

The United States named a 20-man pool of candidates in January, but the squad suffered a blow when the Chicago Bulls' reigning NBA Most Valuable Player Rose tore a knee ligament in the team's opening playoff game.

He'll need surgery and won't be available for London.

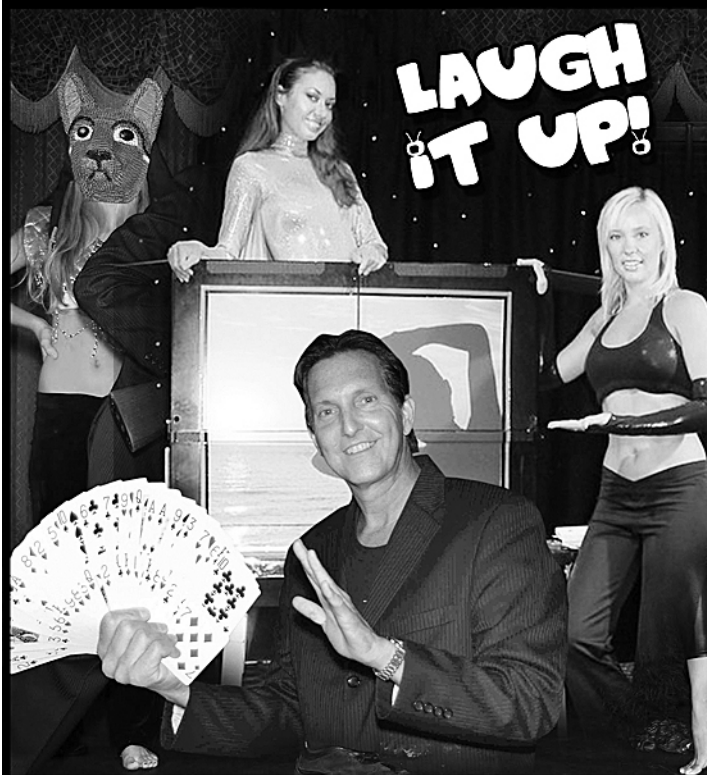
Orlando Magic star Howard is sitting out the NBA playoffs with a back injury.

The 12-man Olympic squad with alternates must be named on June 18.

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Tennis: Blue clay controversy builds in Madrid



MADRID (AFP) - Players will step onto the untried blue clay courts of the ATP-WTA Madrid Masters from Sunday, with serious doubts and some hostility as preparations for the French Open are fine-tuned.

King of clay Rafael Nadal, who set records in his last two tournaments with an eighth straight trophy at Monte Carlo and a seventh from eight appearances in Barcelona, has been among the most outraged in the Spanish capital.

After training on the courts which are the marketing brain-

child of the tournament's billionaire impresario Ion Tiriac, Nadal was even more upset than he had been before trying them out at the Caja Magica complex in the south of Madrid.

The world number two blamed the ATP for accepting the never-before-seen clay colour as the event prepared to get under way.

"I trained on it yesterday afternoon and I think it's a mistake -- not by the organisation but by the ATP," said the irate Spaniard on Friday at a sponsor event.

Nadal also told Spanish media: "Madrid is one of the best tournaments in the world and does not need this. It is played at altitude. That makes it different already. I appreciate the idea but it should have never been allowed."

The controversial change was approved last year by outgoing ATP president Adam Helfant, who did not renew his contract after three years in the job.

The tournament leads into the Rome Masters starting May 14, which is the last major event before Roland Garros.

Novak Djokovic, the world number one, won both titles a year ago at the expense of Nadal.

The Serb will take the top seeding ahead of Nadal and third seed Roger Federer, with Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga replacing Andy Murray as fourth seed after the Briton pulled out Friday with a back injury.

Djokovic has joined in with lesser criticism but much scepticism about the blue courts, while Federer, who is ATP

Player Council president and usually a hard-core traditionalist, is taking a fine line as to his opinion.

"I find it sad to play on a surface the players don't accept," said the Swiss. "It's said that a player like Rafa, at a tournament in his own country, has had to fight against a surface that he does not want to play on."

The men's draw will be missing veteran Americans Andy Roddick and Mardy Fish, with both withdrawing. Roddick has a right hamstring problem while Fish says he has been dealing with an unspecified health threat for six weeks.

The women's field is headed by top seed Victoria Azarenka and number two Maria Sharapova. Wimbledon winner Petra Kvitova, the holder, takes third.

Sharapova won the Stuttgart clay event last week over Azarenka after losing two major finals to the Belarus player this season.

There does not seem to be as much despair among the women about the new clay. "It's a little different, the blue is unique," said Sharapova. "Obviously that's what the tournament wants. To be unique, different. It's pretty cool."

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